

Message Text

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TAGS: OREP (DIGGS, CHARLES C)

SUBJ: CODEL DIGGS

1. THE FOLLOWING IS BACKGROUND FOR REPRESENTATIVE
DIGGS'S PROPOSED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT EYADEMA.

2. EYADEMA IS AN INTELLIGENT, SELF-TAUGHT MAN WITH
LITTLE FORMAL EDUCATION. HE REACHED THE RANK OF
SERGEANT-MAJOR IN THE FRENCH ARMY AND SERVED IN INDOCHINA
AND ALGERIA. AFTER BEING DEMOBILIZED IN 1961, HE LED THE
FIRST SUB-SAHARAN MILITARY COUP IN 1963. BY 1965 HE WAS IN
CHARGE OF THE TOGOLESE ARMY AND TOOK OVER DIRECT RULE IN
1967. HE HOLDS THE MILITARY RANK OF GENERAL OF THE ARMY.
HE IS ABOUT SIX FEET TALL AND HAS A COMMANDING PRESENCE
AND AIR OF AUTHORITY. THESE NATURAL QUALITIES ARE
ENHANCED BY THE HABITS OF TEN YEARS OF VIRTUALLY UNCHALLENGED
RULE AS WELL AS HIS MILITARY BACKGROUND. WHILE NOT
NORMALLY LOQUACIOUS, EYADEMA HAS PASSIONATELY ANTI-
SOVIET VIEWS AND CAN TALK AT LENGTH ON HIS CONCERNS
ABOUT THE DANGERS OF SOVIET EXPANSION IN AFRICA.

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EM HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF A MODERATE IN THE SPECTRUM OF
AFRICAN POLITICAL OPIONION. AS ONE OF THE MORE EXPERIENCED
AFRICAN LEADERS, IT IS CLEAR ALSO THAT HE REGARDS
HIMSELF AS BEING IN THE FRONT RANK OF AFRICAN LEADERSHIP
(HE IS CURRENTLY A VICE PRESIDENT OF THE OAU), AND HE
TAKES THIS SELF-ASSUMED ROLE SERIOUSLY, VIZ HIS RECENT

EFFORT TO ATTEMPT TO MEDIATE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA. EYADEMA IS, OF COURSE, A FOUNDER OF ECOWAS.

4. UNDER EYADEMA, TOGO FOLLOWS AN ECLECTIC FOREIGN POLICY WHICH COMBINES CLOSE RELATIONS WITH SUCH DIVERSE COUNTRIES AS NORTH KOREA, CHINA, LIBYA, ZAIRE, NIGERIA, THE IVORY COAST, AND FRANCE. TOGO BELIEVES THE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS TAKING A GREATER INTEREST IN AFRICA AND WELCOMES THIS SHIFT IN US PRIORITIES. EYADEMA PERSONNALLY SEES THE US AS A BARRIER TO SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA AND PRIMARILY FOR THIS REASON IS INTERESTED IN IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

5. US AND TOGOLESE VIEWS GENERALLY COINCIDE ON THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. TOGO SUPPORTS OUR EFFORTS TO EFFECT PEACEFUL CHANGE IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA, SINCE IT BELIEVES THAT A SOLUTION BY FORCE WILL INEVITABLY INCREASE SOVIET INFLUENCE ON THE CONTINENT. TOGO WAS DISAPPOINTED BY US FAILURE TO COUNTER SOVIET AND CUBAN EFFORTS IN ANGOLA IN 1975-76, AND ALSO WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A MORE FORCEFUL US RESPONSE TO THE KATANGAN SEPARATISTS EFFORTS IN ZAIRE IN 1977.

6. TOGO FOLLOWS AN ACTIVIST FOREIGN POLICY IN THE WEST AFRICAN REGION. IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH NIGERIA, IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORKED HARD FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (ECOWAS) AND IS THE SITE OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NEWLY ORGANIZED ECOWAS FUND. TOGO IS ALREADY THE SITE OF A MAJOR REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL PROJECT-A \$245 MILLION CLINKER PLANT WHICH INVOLVES JOINT OWNERSHIP BY IVORY COAST, GHANA, AND TOGO. TOGO SEES LOME AS AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT SITE FOR REGIONAL CONFERENCES AND HOPES TO ATTRACT THE HEADQUARTERS OF AS MANY REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS POSSIBLE.

7. TOGO WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE US ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE REGION AS WELL AS IN TOGO SPECIFICALLY. IT ACTIVELY ENCOURAGES INVESTMENT BY US COMPANIES AND HAS RECENTLY GRANTED A CONCESSION FOR OIL EXPLORATION COVERING ITS ENTIRE ON-SHORE AND OFF-SHORE TERRITORY TO AN AMERICAN FIRM, OCEANIC EXPLORATION COMPANY. TOGO IS ALSO CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING FOR A SUBSTANTIAL US INVESTMENT IN A NEW PINE-APPLE CANNING VENTURE.

8. UNTIL RECENTLY, US DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO TOGO HAS BEEN EXCLUSIVELY IN A REGIONAL FRAMEWORK. HOWEVER, SEVERAL BILATERAL PROJECTS ARE NOW UNDER STUDY, AND

APPROVAL OF A BILATERAL PROJECT FOR A FAMILY HEALTH TRAINING CENTER IS EXPECTED BEFORE THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR. THE US WAS ABLE TO RESPOND TO A TOGOLESE REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO COUNTERACT THE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT WITH A 5,300 TON DONATION OF GRAIN WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING DISTRIBUTED. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ABLE TO RESPOND TO AN EXPRESSED TOGOLESE INTEREST IN CLOSER RELATIONS IN THE DEFENSE SPHERE BY A MODEST ONE-TIME MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR TWO TOGOLESE OFFICERS. HISTORICALLY, FRANCE AND THE COMMON MARKET HAVE DOMINATED TOGO'S FOREIGN TRADE, THE US SHARE HAS REMAINED SMALL. IMPORTS FROM THE US IN 1976 WERE \$19,406,415 AND EXPORTS TO THE US ONLY \$665,166. PALMER

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